

Training The Trainers

By Staff Sgt. Bill Sutherland, TF Nationwide—214th MPAD, Richmond, VA . Photos by Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney, TF Nationwide—318th PAOC, Chicago, IL

Training tomorrow's soldiers has always been the job of drill sergeants. Training tomorrow's drill sergeants is the job the Drill Sergeant School of the 100th Division at Fort Knox, Ky., which turns Army non-commissioned officers into new drill sergeants. This school teaches Army NCOs how to turn civilians into soldiers, as well as how to instill new recruits with the values and skills the Army cherishes.



Drill Sgt. School instructor Staff Sgt. Hardy O. Arrowood, 100th Division (IT) instructs the cadets on the new range safety rules

The DSS Commandant, Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Willis of the 100th Division, said, "Some of us might remember, just how dedicated a drill sergeants put in a 12-14 hour workday. Those values don't come naturally, but are instilled through rigorous training and conditioning." Many individuals aren't aware of the sacrifices most drill sergeants go through while training core Army skills to new soldiers. Some aspects of the training are the long hours of the school and learning a separate series of qualifications.

Classes at the school are designed to prepare future drill sergeants for a variety of training events they will need to lead or conduct as a drill sergeant. Some are very physical and must be taught by example; physical training is one of the most visible illustrations of this.

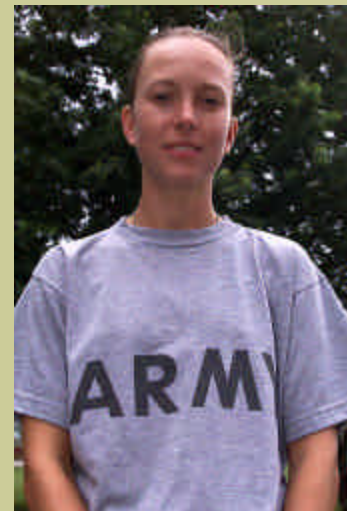
Today, the school strives to be the premier leadership school in the Army. To that end, the school encompasses hundreds of hours of academic classes, physical training and practical applications over an 11-week course or through an accelerated course for Army Reservists.

Not only are students given a thorough review of all military common tasks, but they are also acquainted with an intensive indoctrination in the conduct, regulations and procedures that govern recruit training.

The student instructors undergo a comprehensive leadership-training program, which includes courses in time management, communication skills and the counseling of trainees. Counseling is an integral part in any training program to provide the trainees with feedback on their performance.



Sgt. 1st Class Charles Greene, Sgt. 1st Class Freddy Guy and Staff Sgt. Darrell Lee, all from the 100th Division, discuss how they will grade the cadets in the Physical Fitness Procedures Test.



"Drill Sergeants today need to be positive, confident leaders in order to lead and train their recruits," said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Irwin of the 1/397th from Dunsville, KY., a drill sergeant trainee. "It gives me a great sense of pride to be a drill sergeant, so I am taking this course. Every graduate is given the leadership skills necessary to be an effective drill sergeant. Conversely, those students who check in as experienced leaders will have their skills refined and improved through the many examples provided by the staff of the school."

To complete the daunting task of turning of civilians into soldiers, the training plan call for using a training schedule that requires each candidate to be well versed in multiple disciplines.

Drill Sergeants are also responsible for teaching their recruits the safe handling of weapons as well as classes in Human Relations, Drill and Ceremony, Tactical Training and performing various physical training exercises.

"Students must be physically competitive and be able to conduct a rifle bayonet course, while demonstrating a satisfactory level of cardiovascular and strength conditioning on order to graduate," said Willis.

The school believes that leadership can always be improved upon and refined. Daily leadership evaluations are based upon observation and peer evaluations. "The school knows most students will check in with varying degrees of leadership experience and aptitude. Our leadership program is designed to develop each progressive soldier regardless of ability," Willis said.

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